

University of Toronto



SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORK OF THE PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITY

The work of a Provincial University is fundamentally that of service to the people of the Province—it could not be otherwise. So far as the teaching function is concerned, such service is well understood by the public. But there is another type of service, not so well understood because not so well known, and comparatively more recent in its origin, yet none the less important. Of this latter type of service four examples are here briefly outlined.

CONNAUGHT ANTITOXIN LABORATORIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HYGIENE

Previous to May, 1914, with the exception of smallpox and typhoid vaccines, none of the auxiliary weapons, of a preventive or curative nature, with which the physician is armed in his fight against communicable diseases (diphtheria, meningitis, etc.) were prepared in Canada.

During the winter of 1914, Dr. J. G. Fitzgerald, with the very cordial and hearty co-operation of Sir Edmund Osler, Chairman of the medical section of the Commission of Conservation and a Governor of the University of Toronto, undertook to establish a laboratory in the University of Toronto where these products could be prepared and distributed at cost. In May, 1914, the laboratory was formally opened. At that time very modest and very limited accommodation was available but better times were to come.

The important reasons for the establishment of the laboratory were three in number. The first of these was that no country in the world of the size of Canada is without laboratories for the purpose. Secondly, the supply of a given product at any time might be insufficient and difficult to obtain; the outbreak of war in August, 1914, and the consequent great shortage of tetanus (lockjaw) serum illustrated this point. And finally there was the strongest reason of all, the economic reason.

The preparation of these substances requires the services of especially trained experts versed in the methods of immunity. Few such men are obtainable. Then the equipment of laboratories, stables, etc., is costly, and the profits of producers, middle-men, and retailers meant that the antitoxin when purchased by the ultimate consumer was expensive, very expensive. To illustrate: diphtheria is a disease the ravages of which are felt mostly among the classes of our people who have least money with which to purchase medical supplies. A child in such a family is taken ill with diphtheria; the father goes to a nearby drug-store to buy the diphtheria antitoxin which the doctor has ordered; he requires a dose of five thousand units; he is asked to pay from three to five dollars for this. He is unable to do so and he either buys a smaller dose of, say, one thousand units at a dollar, or he waits until next day with the hope that the child will then be better and he will not need to buy antitoxin at all. Next day the child is worse and eventually dies, even though given antitoxin. The delay has been fatal. The child should have been given as large a dose as possible at the very earliest moment after the disease was diagnosed. The entire success of treating diphtheria with antitoxin depends upon the early use of large doses.

It is true that the larger municipalities and hospitals were able to obtain antitoxin at special rates from the manufacturers, that is to say, those who were best able to pay were charged the least, and, conversely, those whose need was often the greatest and whose purses were slim, were not so favoured. Immediately the Antitoxin Laboratory began the distribution of its products, a dose of antitoxin was made available for thirty-five cents, which previously had cost one dollar, and the dose which had been sold for from three to five dollars could be

purchased for one dollar and a half. The enterprise at once received every encouragement from several Provincial and Municipal Boards of Health. The first of these was the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario, which, through its chief Officer of Health, Dr. J. W. S. McCullough, arranged for distribution through all local Boards of Health in Ontario of various antitoxins and serums at these greatly reduced prices.

The next step in the work was the very advanced and progressive action of the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario when they decided, commencing February 1st, 1916, to distribute free of charge in Ontario diphtheria antitoxin, tetanus antitoxin, meningitis serum, rabies vaccine (the Pasteur Treatment) and smallpox vaccine. This move put Ontario in the forefront of public health work, and meant that henceforth no child's life should be lost because the parents could not afford to buy antitoxin.

During the Great War the Laboratory supplied to the Department of Militia and Defence (at a price lower than the lowest cut price quoted by any American manufacturer and at about half the rate paid by the Allied Governments) all the tetanus antitoxin required for the Canadian Expeditionary Force and practically all the smallpox vaccine needed for the army. This was made possible by acceptance of the offer of Colonel A. E. Gooderham, a member of the University Board of Governors, to equip a laboratory for the manufacture of these products.

The work of the Laboratory was much hampered at the outset by the lack of accommodation for horses and other necessary laboratory animals; and, because the University did not possess a farm, the horses could not be kept under the best possible conditions. Also the available laboratory space was inadequate. When this became known to Colonel Gooderham he promptly increased his gift many times and purchased a fifty-acre farm in York township about twelve miles north of Toronto. On this farm, a magnificent laboratory and stables have been built through Colonel Gooderham's generosity, and the whole property given to the University. The total value of this gift was seventy-five thousand dollars.

Canada now has an institution which is comparable in the scope of its activities to the Serum Department of the Pasteur Institute, Paris; The Lister Institute, London; and the Research Laboratories of the Health Department of New York City. These all derive a large part of their support from the preparation and sale of public health biological products which are supplied to Boards of Health at low cost. The proceeds above the amount actually required to run the Laboratories are used to further research in Preventive Medicine. Since the war this is also done in the Antitoxin Laboratory of the University of Toronto.

THE DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

The aim of this department of university activity is, as its name implies, to extend the advantages offered by the University to those whose circumstances are such that they cannot attend the regular sessions. This service is performed by means of special arrangements made for the benefit of teachers, by extension lectures, by evening tutorial classes, and by co-operation with the Workers' Educational Association.

To assist public school teachers in improving their scholarship is to benefit the whole Province. That is obvious. In the more sparsely-settled rural districts are many teachers with third class certificates; in the older parts of the Province most teachers hold either second class or first class certificates. For the welfare of the schools and of the children it is most important that all these teachers should have an opportunity to improve their academic and professional status. Such an opportunity the University of Toronto offers. Third class and second class teachers may have correspondence courses during the winter so that they may prepare themselves for the summer courses offered by the Ontario Department of Education. First class teachers may, by correspondence work and summer sessions, proceed to the degree of Bachelor of Arts without discontinuing their teaching. All this is done for a nominal fee—a fee so low that no teacher has ever mentioned expense as an excuse for failing to enter on one of the courses mentioned. For teachers who live in Toronto or the vicinity there are teachers' classes after school in the afternoons and on Saturday forenoons and many are taking advantage of this arrangement. At the present rate of progress several hundred public school teachers will soon be enrolled in these so-called extra-mural courses and, perhaps, almost as many high school teachers in the pedagogy courses which are given in much the same manner. There could scarcely be a more democratic service than this—an opportunity for every teacher in Ontario. Through the teachers the youth of every part of the Province are receiving benefit from the University of Toronto.

The Workers' Educational Association is a voluntary organization of men and women who wish to increase their general knowledge. With this Association the University co-operates, supplying the instructors and most of the financial support. These classes meet in the evenings for the study of economics, political philosophy, civic administration, public finance, psychology and logic, and English literature. The cost to each student is fifty cents per year and the price of the necessary text-books.

There are also other classes, known as "evening tutorial classes," for the general public, in English literature, economics, and any other subject for which a sufficient number make application. For these classes a nominal fee is charged.

Local lectures are offered to organizations in any part of the Province on payment of the lecturer's expenses, plus five dollars. Rural, as well as urban, localities make use of this form of extension service which the University offers to the limit of its financial resources.

In one rural community a class is being conducted in English literature for the members of the Junior Women's Institute and the Junior Farmers' Institute. Should this experiment succeed, more of such classes will be organized. Indeed, it would not be difficult to dot the Province of Ontario with cultural classes of this kind, and the results would be very much worth while.

Another experiment—and one that seems to promise abundant success—is the organization of a short course for members of Farmers' Clubs. This will be held at the University of Toronto in February and will continue for two weeks. The subjects offered will be economics, architecture, public health, English literature, and Canadian history. It is expected that more than one hundred young men and women will take advantage of this opportunity. The forenoons will be spent in study; the afternoons in visits to museums, factories, and other places of interest.

The Department of University Extension is making every effort to serve the people of Ontario in any way that they wish to be served.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE: WHAT IS IT?

It has as its immediate object

THE TRAINING OF THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO DO OR DIRECT THE WORK OF THE PHILANTHROPIES OF OUR CITY AND COUNTRY

It is now realized that our social agencies must give more than relief. This, however welcome and necessary, must either be transitory or continuous with little hope of reducing either the misery or the cost of relief. They are all aiming to reach the causes with the hope of removing, or at least reducing, them.

They have found that goodwill, though essential, is unequal to the treatment of social just as of physical ills, without knowledge and trained intelligence.

Our social agencies must have trained workers if they are to give a lasting return in welfare for their investment in money and in work.

The University of Toronto founded the first school in the Dominion for the training of Canadian social workers for service in Canada.

It also offers further study and training to those already at work; and to those who, not intending to become professionals but wishing to understand the problems that face society and to make their citizenship more effective, can give all or part of their time to take full or part-time courses.

These problems are pressing heavily on us, and all thoughtful citizens desire to lighten a dangerous burden; to spread as widely as possible the stable basis of security and decent comfort, and to limit as narrowly as possible the area of misery and the sources of vice and crime.

This study will come to be regarded as an essential part of education for active citizenship.

WHAT THE UNIVERSITY IS DOING

The course of training leading to the Diploma covers two years. This represents the minimum a student should take; but a certificate is granted on satisfactory completion of one year's work.

There are 62 students giving all their time. (For four of these, certain courses given in Victoria College are accepted as part of the certificate course.)

There are 295 part-time students. (One is doing joint work with the Department of Philosophy for the M.A. degree; 200 are nurses attending the medical-social course as part of their training under the committee of the Nurses' Association.)

THE METHOD OF TRAINING

A. THE LECTURES aim to give a grasp of social principles—the evolution and organization of modern society, and the forces (psychological, economic, ethical and religious) at work in it—the conditions that call for social work.

B. THE FIELD WORK is to the social student what the clinic is to the medical student. Coming from a variety of schools and colleges, the students differ widely in their preparation for social work, though they usually possess at least two things in common—a fairly limited experience and a genuine impulse towards social usefulness.

The essential tasks of field work are to enlarge this experience and develop this impulse. It opens the door to the laboratory which lies in the city and wider community. Through lectures and reading the students are building up an academic understanding of living and working conditions. Field work closely dovetails by providing concrete illustrations. It gives actual contact with individuals in all stages of adjustment and maladjustment to conditions usually very unfamiliar to the student.

The members of this widely varied student group are fitted, one by one, according to background, interest and ability, into various social agencies, where, through practice work under supervision, they gain the necessary approach to real life problems. Classroom problems may be neat and direct. Those of real life rarely are. Any one, because of its network of intricacies, may aptly illustrate lectures on Social Treatment of Poverty, Community Organization, Child Welfare, or Housing, as well as Economics, Ethics and Psychology.

Here we meet one of the difficulties that often dismay the student. Such problems may, by their very complexity, tend to undermine his poise and optimism. But in taking hold of them and helping in their solution, he finds scope for impulses towards service, his courage is sustained or restored as he gains experience in methods of social work.

This integral part of training is made possible because of the fine co-operation of the city's social agencies. Upon the development of those agencies much of its future depends. Anything that the Department can offer in special courses or otherwise which will assist their growth must be gladly given not only in recognition of a heavy debt, but for the good of the community at large.

THE COURSE IN COMMERCE

In sketching briefly the work of the departments mentioned above an attempt has been made to show what the University of Toronto is doing for the citizens of the Province as a whole, rich and poor, rural and urban, agricultural and industrial. Mention should also be made of a new course, commenced with the session of 1920-21, to prepare students of high standing for specialised departments of commercial life. This is the course which leads to the degree of Bachelor of Commerce. Though yet in its infancy it offers an excellent training for young people who propose to fit themselves for business of the specialized type. The course includes advanced work in economics, mathematics, certain languages, history, accountancy, business methods, administrative efficiency, commercial law, etc. It is proposed in establishing this course to prepare not only for business and commercial life but also for the consular service and the foreign representation of Canadian firms.

Copies of this bulletin and of those to follow it will be promptly sent to any address on request. The Department of University Extension, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.